



Water Quality Working Group

Meeting Agenda

Date: 06/30/11

Start Time: 12:00 pm

End Time: 2:00 pm

Meeting Method: Go-To-Meeting/Conference Call at island-specific sanctuary offices

Meeting Objective: Presentation on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) water quality-related programs and opportunity for questions and answers with:

Bridget Hoover: Water Quality Program Director, MBNMS

Paul Michel: Superintendent, MBNMS

John Hunt: Deputy Superintendent, MBNMS

Attendance:

Maui: Patty Miller (Sanctuary Maui Island Coordinator), Chris Ostrander (Director, PacIOOS at UH), Robin Knox (South Maui Watershed and Clean Water Act Expert), Mike Moran (Pump Don't Dump), Jay Carpio (Fisherman), Maile Carbono (HOLON, LLC)

Kaua'i: Jean Souza (Sanctuary Kaua'i Island Coordinator), Gordon LaBedz (SAC – Ocean Recreation Alternate)

O'ahu: Joseph Paulin (Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator and Staff Lead), Collin Crecco (NOAA Hollings Scholar), Take Tomson (SAC – NOAA OLE and Vice Chair), Micki Ream (Sanctuary Education and Outreach Specialist), Paul Wong (Sanctuary Operations Coordinator)

Lana'i: Sol Kaho'ohalahala (SAC – Lana'i Island Representative)

Called-In: Malia Chow (Sanctuary Superintendent), Carol Wilcox (Malama Maunalua), Doug Cole (SAC – Ocean Recreation Representative)



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- I Role
- II Presentation – MBNMS Water Quality Programs
- III Q&A and Discussion
- IV Public Comment
- V Information needs for July 21, 2011 meeting
- VI Review action items
- VII Pau

Meeting Minutes

Bridget Hoover began by introducing herself, Paul Michel, and John Hunt from the MBNMS. Early water quality efforts by the MBNMS and geographic boundaries were discussed initially. MBNMS has a Water Quality Protection Program and they mostly focus on the watershed and associated factors like agricultural land use, watershed drainage, etc. Collaborative efforts and the development of partnerships are essential to ensure water quality protection. A Water Quality Protection Program Committee exists with a variety of members at the local, state, federal levels, as well as NGOs. Major issues given much attention include urban runoff and regional monitoring.

Who has authority to issue permits was an issue MBNMS had to solve during their MPR process. There is now a Memorandum of Agreement giving structure to the permitting process. The MOU establishes NOAA authorization and permit review procedure. Most of the water quality pollutants come from cities and agricultural sites. The sanctuary interacts with many groups to promote educational programs, monitoring, and management strategies.

The Synthesis, Assessment, and Management (SAM) project is part of the regional monitoring program to look at an assessment of the monitoring programs. Monitoring programs are carried out by sanctuary volunteers. Snapshot Day is an annual event held for volunteers to go out and take measurements of water quality including pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and other parameters. It is an effective way to get the public involved. Most monitoring is from on-land sources such as rivers, creeks, streams, and other fresh water systems. The MBNMS Condition Report includes reporting from open ocean, nearshore, and the one estuary system within the sanctuary. SIMoN provides a



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google-based monitoring program to show where water quality monitoring and projects take place. During the First Flush program, volunteers collect samples to analyze during the first major rain of the season.

Agricultural runoff monitoring programs consist of partnerships such as the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance to provide input to ensure conservative efforts are being carried out. Trust and communication between the sanctuary staff and growers has contributed to a successful partnership. For instance, 70% of growers incorporate Farm Water Quality Management Plans into their operations. Furthermore, education and outreach programs range from large workshops to one-on-one site visits. Much funding comes from the city and other outside sources. Although many pollution problems are not human-created, they are still a risk and need to be addressed. However, it is difficult and sometimes detrimental to counteract natural occurrences. To be able to identify which pollution is animal or human-induced is important since the following actions will depend on the source.

The objective for next meeting is to arrange a similar presentation with FKNMS staff. Joe is still waiting to hear back from the superintendent. Before next meeting, group members need to think about potential draft recommendations and send them to Joe before the meeting so he can distribute material before the meeting.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Action Items: For Group: Start thinking about potential recommendations

Next Meeting: July 28th 2011 at 12:30pm.